

A Collection of such Statutes as are now in force, and made in the Reigns of K. Ed. 6. Queen Eliz. K. James 1st. & K. Charles the 1st. Which enjoin the Observation of LENT, And other Fish days throughout the Year, with the Reasons for enjoining the same.

AND be it further enacted by the Authority afore said, for the benefit and Commodity of this Realm to grow, as well in maintenance of the Navy; as in spairing and increase of Flesh Victual of this Realm.

The Reason for the keeping of Lent expressed in the Stat. 5. Eliz. cap. 5.

It shall not be lawful for any Person within this Realm to eat any Flesh upon any days now usually observed as Fish days (upon pain to forfeit Twenty Shillings for every time he shall offend, or else suffer one Months close Imprisonment without Bail or Main-prize.

The forfeiture of him that eateth Flesh upon Fish days, and the forfeiture of him in whose house it is eaten.

prise. (35 *Eliz.* 7.) And every Person within whose house any such offence shall be done: and being privy and knowing thereof, and not effectually punished, and disclosing the same unto some publick Officer, having Authority to punish the same for every such offence, shall forfeit Thirteen Shillings and four pence (35 *Eliz.* 7) All which forfeitures for not abstaining from Meats shall be divided into three equal parts: That is, one part to the use of the Queen, the other to the Informer, the third to the Common use of the Parish where the offence shall be committed, and to be levied by the Church-Wardens after any Conviction in that behalf. (5 *Eliz.* 5.)

*Condition upon Licence,
and what shall be given to the Poor upon each Licence.*

But this Act concerning eating of Flesh shall not extend to any Persons having special Licences upon causes contained in the same, and grounded according to the Laws of this Realm; every of which Licences shall be void, unless the same contain these conditions. *viz.* Every Licence made to any Person of the degree of a Lord of the Parliament, and his Wife, shall be upon condition that they shall pay to the Poor Mens Box, within the Parish where they remain, &c.

In

In the Feast of the Purification of our Lady, or within six days after, Twenty Six Shillings Eight Pence, and to be paid within one Month next after the same Feast, upon pain of forfeiture of the same License : A Knight and his Wife shall pay Yearly Thirteen Shillings Four Pence. Every Person under the said degree shall pay Yearly Six Shillings Eight Pence to the said use at the aforesaid time, and upon the aforesaid Condition. 5 Eliz. 5.

All Persons which by notorious sickness shall be enforced for the Recovery of their Health to eat Flesh for the time of their sickness, shall be Licensed by the Bishop of the Diocess, or by the Parson, Vicar, or Curate, of such Parish where such Person is sick, or of one of the next Parish adjoyning, (if there be no Curate, &c. In the same Parish, or if he be wilfull, which Licence shall be signed by the Bishop, Parson, &c. And endure no longer then the time of sickness. And if the sickness continue above Eight days after the Licence granted, it shall be Registered in the Church Book, with the knowledge of one of the Church-Wardens, and

*Who may
have Licence
and who may
give Licence
to eat Flesh
upon Fish
days, and the
Fee.*

the party Licenced, shall give to the Curate Four Pence for every entry, and it shall endure no longer but for his sickness, and if any Licence by any Parson, Vicar, or Curate, be granted to any Person, other then such as Evidently appear to have need thereof, by reason of their sickness, not only every such Licence shall be void, but also every such Parson, Curate, or Vicar, shall forfeit for every such Licence, otherwise granted, Five Marks. (5 Eliz. 5.)

*Such as have
Licence to
eat Flesh upon
Fish days.
must have
one dish of Sea
Fish.*

Such Persons as have upon good Considerations, any Lawful Licence to eat Flesh upon any Fish days, be bound to have for every one Dish of Flesh served to be eaten at their Table, one usual Dish of Sea Fish, fresh or salt, to be likewise served at the same Table & to be eaten, or spent, without fraud, or covin as the like kind is, or shall be, usually eaten on, or spent on *Saturdays*, (except such Persons as for sickness, shall for that time be Licenced by the Bishop, Curate, &c. Or by reason of Age, or other Impediment allowed heretofore, by the Ecclesiastical Laws of this Realm,) upon the pain aforesaid. (5 Eliz. 5. 1 Jac. 25.)

No Butcher or other Person, whether he be Licenced or not Licenced to Kill Flesh, ^{Flesh not to be Killed in} shall from henceforth at any time, in the time of *Lent*, kill or dress to the intent to put to Sale any Ox or Oxen, Beve or Beves, Hogs, Calves, Rams, Ewes, or Wethers, except Oxen or Beves for Victualling of Ships into Forreign Parts, and except all Flesh to be Killed three days before *Easter* Yearly, upon pain to forfeit and loose the same Oxen, Beves, &c. So Killed, and dressed contrary to this Statute, or the value of them. 1 *Jac.* 29.

All Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Bayliffs, head Officers, and Constables as well ^{Officers searching for} of Citties and Towns Corporate as in every County of this Realm, shall have full Authority Yearly in time of *Lent*, to enter into all Houses of Victuallers and Common Victualling Houses within their Jurisdiction where such offences shall be suspected to be committed, and finding any such Oxen, Beves, &c. So Killed or Dressed, or any part or parcel of the same, contrary to this Statute, shall take and seize the same as forfeited, and shall give and distribute the same ^{Flesh Killed in Lent.}

to

to Prisoners, and other poor folks by their discretion. 1 *Jac* 29.

*Victuallers
dressing of
Flesh.*

Every Taverner, Inn-keeper, keeper of every common Tabling-house, Common Tippler, Common Cook, or Ale-house-keeper, Offending at any time hereafter in the dressing of any Flesh Victual contrary to the Statute of *Anno* 5. *Eliz*. Or contrary to this Statute, shall not only forfeit all the Flesh ~~Desired~~, but ~~so desired~~ also the penalty imposed by the said Statute of 5. *Eliz*. for every Offence to be committed, the one half of all which forfeitures, except such forfeitures as shall be found, and taken by the Justices of Peace, Mayors, Bayliffs, Head-Officers and Constables according to the Tenor of this Act shall be to the *KING*, and the other half to such Person or Persons, as shall sue or inform in any Court of Record for the same, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, wherein no Essoine, Protection, or Wager of Law shall be allowed, &c. 1 *Jac*. 29. To continue till the end of the first Session of the next Parliament.

*Continuance
of the former
Statute.*

A Clause in an Act. 3 *Car*. 1. 4. And so much of an Act made the 5th Year of the Reign

Reign of the late Queen *Eliz.* Intituled,
An Act touching certain politick Constitu-
 tions made for the maintenance of the Navy,
 as it is not repealed by any Statute, nor doth
 concern the eating of Fleth, or using of Fish
 upon the *Wednesday*, &c. together, withall, and
 every other additions, Explanations, and alter-
 ations made, thetunto, or thereof or of any
 part thereof by any Statute, or Statutes made
 since the making of the last mentioned Act.
 And in force the last day of the Session of
 Parliament that was in the 25th. Year of the
 Reign of the late *KING JAMES*, &c. Shall
 continue in force untill the end of the next
 Session of Parliament.

By a Clause in an Act of 17. *Car. 1.*
Cap. 4. The aforesaid Statute is made
 Perpetual, see the Abridgments of the
 late Statutes, Title Continuance:

*Made Per-
petual.*

*Note, that all the time of Lent, and every Vi-
 gil (or Holy-day-eve) and every Friday, and
 Saturday, except Christmas Day falls
 thereon) and the Ember days throughout
 the whole Year, were usually observed by the
 Laws and Customs of the Realm, as Fish-
 days, which is proved by the preamble of the
 Statute.*

Statute. 2. & 3. Edw. 6. Cap. 19. where also it is Enacted, that in those times such abstinence should be used, and the Stat. 5. & 6. Edw. 6. Cap. 3. Appoints which days shall be kept Holy, the Eves of which are only to be observed for Fish days.

And by the Stat. 5 Eliz. 5. Every Wednesday in the Year, (which shall not happen to fall in Christmas or Easter week) is limited to be observed as a Fish day on which day no manner of Person shall eat Flesh, otherwise then ought to be on the Common Saturday.

F I N I S:

By T. H. Gent.

L O N D O N,

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